Get in touch
If any of our pictures bring back memories for you, let us know by emailing james.milner@reachplc.com

The Boat Inn at Brownshill Staunch

Inn affected by constant flooding – 1948

CONSTANT flooding has resulted in the decay of the foundations of The Boat Inn at Brownshill Staunch, Over, and the building is breaking up.

It was suggested to the Ouse catchment board that the existing premises should be demolished and another house erected nearby where it would be protected by the barrier bank, and that a hut be placed on the site of The Boat for the use of the sluice-keeper

Village Institute destroyed by fire – 1934

STUNTNEY Village Institute has been destroyed by fire.
THE blaze was fought by villagers but it was one mass of flames and it was useless to attempt to save it.

Built by the late Cole Ambrose, the building was of wood and corrugated iron.

It was the centre of social life in the village and the whole of the contents, with the exception of a piano, were lost.

A stove, a relic of Queen Victoria's yacht 'Osbourn,' was destroyed together with a billiards table, whist table and chairs.

The billiards championship cup was discovered twisted and broken in the debris.

'Regrettable' case of flowers 'stolen' from grave – 1909

TWO spinsters, aged 50 and 30, appeared in court charged with stealing carnations, value sixpence, from a grave in Mill Road Cemetery.

The custodian said he saw them take the flowers from the side of the grave of Trooper Truscott; he took the ladies to his house, locked the door and sent for a policeman.

They were respectable Sunday school teachers who had known the deceased well and picked up flowers that had dropped from a wreath to take home and press in remembrance of him.

The custodian was legally correct but, for him to lock them up, send for a policeman and cart them through the streets to the police station was very regrettable.

Washing water used to put out fire – 1909

A FIRE does not occur every day in Linton and when it does it received a pretty cool reception.

Monday is washing day and a number of women with arms bared to the elbow rushed from washing tubs, snatched up a pail and joined in the work of quenching the ardour of the leaping flames.

With only a handkerchief over their heads, they rushed through the smoke, defying flying fragments of fire and threw water at any fresh point where flame appeared.

The majority of men were away at work but a crowd of the type generally to be found propping up the walls of a public house collected and gazed on the fire with the glazed eyes of the habitual loafer.

Queen's rebuke over hat issue – 1904

IT is little known that the Master of Trinity College has the prerogative of remaining covered in the presence of the Sovereign and, on one occasion, when Queen Victoria visited Cambridge, he kept his hat on.

The Queen apparently did not notice the circumstances and he began to feel uncomfortable.

At length, he said: "Your Majesty has perhaps wondered that I should be so far lacking in respect, but Lord Kingsale in Ireland, Lord Forester in England and the Master of Trinity have a right to keep their hats on in the presence of their Sovereign."

"Quite so – ahem – but not in the presence of a lady" was the Queen's freezing reply

Two ladies were accused of stealing flowers from a grave in Mill Road Cemetery in 1909

Labourer's words of wisdom – 1904

SOME years ago, a Wicken labourer who was remonstrated with by the parson for not sending his son to school gave as his reason the ignorance of the schoolmaster who "actually taught his son Alf to spell 'taters' with a 'p'!"

But in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, we have a "shrit" maker (presumably a maker of shirts) and find "fresh fish on sail every day".

A shoemaker announces that boots are "sold and heeled at reasonable prices" and nearby there is a "wheelebarrow for sale".

Not far removed, one can read that "Horehound Bear" is on sale.

Cement works taking shape – 1900

THE extensive Portland Cement Works, which are being erected in the neighbourhood of Coldham's Lane and Mill Road, are now assuming enormous dimensions; in fact, the buildings already completed are ample evidence that one of the largest and most modern cement works in England will be situated near Cambridge.

The celebrated gun-makers, Messrs Krupp of Essen, are supplying most of the extensive machinery for the company and a cement will be manufactured that conforms to the specifications of the Board of Admiralty and the London county council.